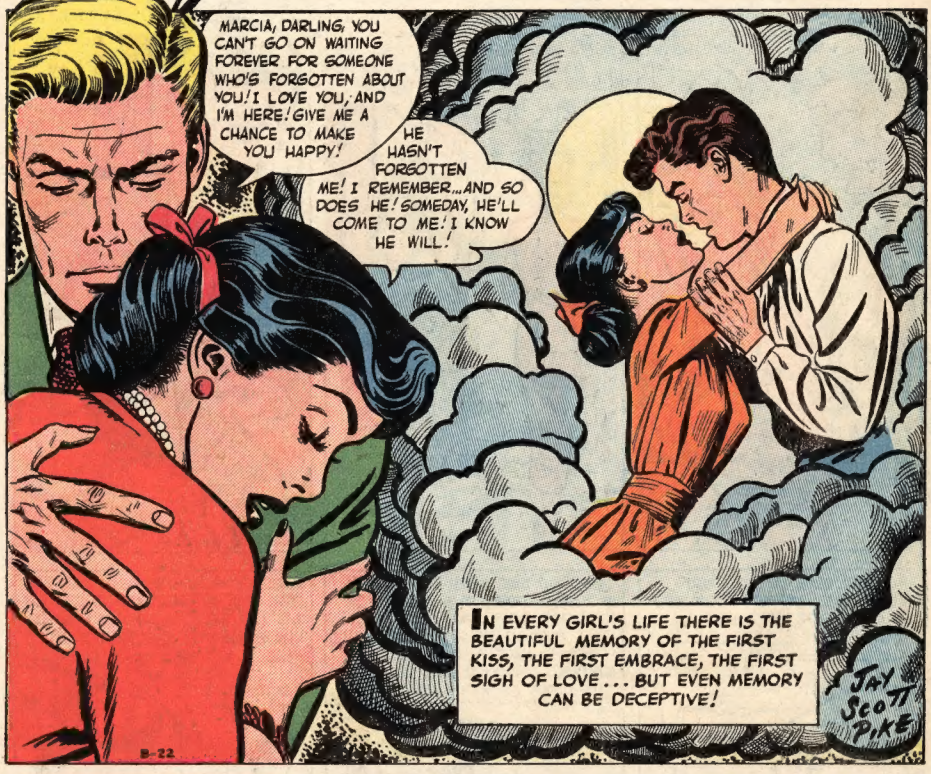
My First Love


MARCIA, DARLING, YOU CAN'T GO ON WAITING FOREVER FOR SOMEONE WHO'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU! I LOVE YOU, AND I'M HERE! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO MAKE YOU HAPPY!
HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN ME! I REMEMBER... AND SO DOES HE! SOMEDAY, HE'LL COME TO ME! I KNOW HE WILL!
IN EVERY GIRL'S LIFE THERE IS THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORY OF THE FIRST KISS, THE FIRST EMBRACE, THE FIRST SIGH OF LOVE... BUT EVEN MEMORY CAN BE DECEPTIVE!
JAY SCOTT PIKE
B-22

IT HAD BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I LEFT MY HOME TOWN AND CAME TO NEW YORK TO WORK AS A DRESS DESIGNER FOR ONE OF THE BETTER FIRMS... FIVE YEARS OF WORK.. AND SUCCESS! AT LAST I HAD EVERYTHING I HAD EVER HOPED FOR...
THIS IS EXCELLENT, MARCIA! YOU'RE TALENTED.. AS WELL AS BEAUTIFUL...
THANKS, PETE! I'LL GET TO WORK ON THE OTHERS...

EVERYTHING, THAT IS, EXCEPT... LOVE!
MARCIA, WAIT A MINUTE! WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY FROM ME LIKE A SCARED RABBIT? I DON'T BITE... AND I THINK AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT YOU! WHY WON'T YOU GIVE ME A TUMBLE? AM I SO HARD TO TAKE?
ON THE CONTRARY, PETE! ONLY I... OH, YOU KNOW WHY I DON'T GO OUT WITH YOU.. OR WITH ANYONE ELSE!
1

ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

I KNOW! STILL YEARNING FOR THE BOY YOU LEFT BEHIND IN YOUR HOME TOWN...STILL DREAMING OF YOUR FIRST LOVE...AND WAITING FOR HIM TO SHOW UP AND CLAIM YOU! MARCIA, HOW CHILDISH CAN YOU GET? YOU'RE TOO SMART TO CLING TO A GIRLISH DREAM LIKE THAT!
PERHAPS, PETE...
BUT THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU NEW YORKERS... NO SENTIMENT... NO ROMANCE! I'M A SMALL-TOWN GIRL WITH SIMPLE DREAMS AND HOPES...AND THEY ALL INCLUDE OSSIE RUTGERS! GO AHEAD AND LAUGH AT ME IF YOU WANT TO!
I'M NOT LAUGHING AT YOU! IT'S JUST THAT I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU AND WAN'T TO GIVE YOU REAL LOVE, INSTEAD OF SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN DEAD FOR FIVE YEARS!
AFTER ALL, HE HASN'T WRITTEN TO YOU SINCE YOU CAME HERE! HE'S FORGOTTEN YOU, MARCIA!
HE COULDN'T HAVE! I REMEMBER... SO DOES HE! IT WAS TOO BEAUTIFUL TO DIE.. AND SOMEDAY, HE'LL COME TO ME!
OH, MARCIA! MARCIA! LET'S NOT YELL AT EACH OTHER! LOOK, YOU DO CARE FOR ME A LITTLE, DON'T YOU?
MORE THAN A LITTLE, PETE!
HIS KISS WAS WARM AND SWEET! IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MEMORY OF MY FIRST LOVE... THE LOVE THAT STILL BURNED BRIGHTLY INSIDE ME, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN ANYTHING I COULD ASK TO ACCEPT THE LOVE OF PETE SAWYER!
MARCIA, DARLING... YOU CAN'T GO ON FOREVER WAITING... WAITING! GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO MAKE YOU FORGET HIM FOREVER! I CAN DO IT IF YOU'LL LET ME!
ALL RIGHT, PETE! LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!
2

I WONDERED IF I HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING IN GIVING UP ON OSSIE! I STILL COULDN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY HEAD! A FIRST LOVE IS NEVER FORGOTTEN! I CARRIED THE MEMORY WITH ME ALWAYS...THE MEMORY OF YOUTH AND LOVE AND ROMANCE...

GOSH, MARCIA, IT'S WONDERFUL TO HOLD YOU LIKE THIS..AND KISS YOU!

I KNOW, OSSIE! I KNOW!

TOGETHER WE HAD SHARED THE BLISS OF A FIRST KISS...TOGETHER WE HAD DISCOVERED THE WONDER OF THE MOON AND THE STARS...TOGETHER WE HAD THOUGHT THERE NEVER WOULD BE...OR COULD BE ANYONE ELSE BUT EACH OTHER...

OSSIE! OSSIE! YOU COULDN'T FORGET! YOU COULDN'T!

STILL, PETE WAS RIGHT! I COULDN'T GO ON WAITING FOREVER! AND HE WAS NICE...VERY NICE! HE LOVED ME, I WAS SURE OF THAT, AND I BEGAN TO THINK LESS AND LESS OF THE BOY BACK HOME...

JUST NAME THE DAY, DARLING, AND AS MRS. PETE SAWYER, YOU'LL MAKE ME THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

LET'S MAKE IT IN A MONTH, PETE!

AS I WAS WRAPPED IN HIS EMBRACE I COULDN'T HELP WONDERING... WOULD SECOND LOVE EVER TAKE THE PLACE OF FIRST LOVE? WOULD PETE EVER MAKE ME FORGET COMPLETELY THE LONGING FOR OSSIE THAT HAD BURNED FOR FIVE LONG YEARS? I DIDN'T KNOW..I COULD ONLY HOPE..FOR HIS SAKE AS WELL AS MINE!

IT WAS GOING TO BE A QUIET WEDDING AND WE WERE GOING TO BERMUDA FOR A MONTH! I WAS GOING OVER MY THINGS IN MY HOTEL ROOM A WEEK BEFORE THE CEREMONY WHEN THE PHONE RANG..

HOLD YOUR HORSES, PETE, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

BRRRRRRING!

HELLO, DARLING! SORRY, I WAS PACKING...

HELLO THERE YOURSELF, DARLING! THIS IS OSSIE RUTGERS! FROM THE OLD HOME TOWN! REMEMBER ME?

MY HEAD WAS IN A WHIRL! THIS WAS OSSIE.. AT LAST! I COULD BARELY SPEAK...
OSSIE! OSSIE! OH, IT'S SO WONDERFUL... WHERE ARE YOU, DARLING?
RIGHT DOWN-STAIRS, SWEET-HEART! HOW'S ABOUT DINNER AT ONE OF THESE SWANKY NEW YORK CAFES, HUH?
I RUSHED DOWNSTAIRS AT ONCE... AND THERE HE WAS... MY FIRST LOVE...
OSSIE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WELL, WELL, WELL, WELL! LOOK WHO'S HERE! AND HOW DO YOU LIKE WHAT THE WIND BLEW IN?
HE WAS A LITTLE MORE PLUMP.. AND HIS HAIR WAS THIN AND NOT SO CURLY...BUT THEN, WE ALL GROW OLD...
IT'S SURE GOOD TO SEE YOU, MARCIA! IT SURE DO BE! YESSIREE! YEP! YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
HUH? OH.. IT'S GOOD SEEING YOU, TOO, OSSIE!
HIS CONVERSATION WAS STRANGE, FILLED WITH EXPRESSIONS I HAD FORGOTTEN! BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER! MY MAN WAS WITH ME...
SAY, MARCY, HOW DO YOU MAKE OUT THESE HERE MENOOS? I CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OUT OF 'EM! CAN I ORDER A HAMBURGER STEAK?
SURE, EXCEPT THAT HERE THEY CALL IT SALISBURY STEAK!... ER, DO YOU WANT ME TO ORDER, DARLING?
Roget's
WISH YOU WOULD, MARCY! CAN'T SEE HOW YOU LIVE IN THIS HURDY-GURDY TOWN! GOOD PLACE TO VISIT, I GUESS, BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE HERE IF THEY GAVE IT TO ME AS A GIFT! TOO MANY PEOPLE!
THEY'RE LIKE THE FOLKS BACK HOME, OSSIE! NO DIFFERENT, ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW THEM!
MAYBE SO... MAYBE SO! BUT HOW ABOUT YOU, MARCY? AIN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU QUIT CAVORTING AROUND?
CAVORTING AROUND? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, OSSIE...
WELL, YOU KNOW...GAL LIKE YOU..YOUNG, PRETTY AND ALL.. LIVING ALONE.. SOWING YOUR WILD OATS...
OSSIE...THE MUSIC... WANT TO DANCE?

I HAD TO MAKE HIM STOP TALKING IN THAT VEIN! I DIDN'T LIKE HIS WAY OF SAYING THINGS! SO WE DANCED... AND I WAITED FOR THE THRILL THAT WOULD COME TO ME IN HIS ARMS...
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS, OSSIE... AND YOU DIDN'T WRITE...
THAT LONG? REALLY? TIME SURE FLIES, DON'T IT? SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WE WERE KIDS IN SCHOOL TOGETHER!
BUT THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE, AIN'T IT? NO KIDDING, MARCY, YOU REALLY LIKE IT HERE?
IT'S A GOOD TOWN, OSSIE! IT'S BEEN GOOD TO ME! BUT, OF COURSE, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE YOUR OWN HOME TOWN... AND YOUR OWN FRIENDS!
NOSIREE! THERE SURE ISN'T! DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT WITH ALL THIS RACKET AND GANGSTERS STOOTING ALL OVER THE STREETS AND ALL!
OUR.. OUR DINNER'S READY, OSSIE!
WHAT? THIS IS A DINNER? AND THEY CHARGE SIX BUCKS FOR THIS? NEW YORK SURE IS A CLIP TOWN, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
OSSIE, PLEASE!
NO WONDER YOU'RE SO SKINNY, EATING THIS KINDA FOOD! LOOKIT ME... HOW NICE AND FAT! THAT'S HOME COOKING, KID! NOTHING LIKE IT!
I..I GUESS NOT...
YEP! WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME, THAT'S WHAT! NOT EATING IN CLIP JOINTS LIKE THIS HERE ..LIVING ALONE.. RUNNING AROUND!
OSSIE! STOP IT! I'M NOT... RUNNING AROUND, AS YOU PUT IT.. AND I DON'T LIVE AN UNHEALTHY AND WICKED LIFE, ALTHOUGH YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF I AM!
I WAS STRUGGLING HARD TO HOLD ONTO MY IDEALS OF OSSIE... TRYING TO REMEMBER HIM AS A SWEET, WONDERFUL BOY.. BUT MY IDEALS AND MY MEMORIES WERE BEING SHATTERED BY THE MINUTE...
OSSIE, I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF YOU FOR FIVE YEARS... WAITING FOR THIS MINUTE...
YOU..YOU HAVE?

YES, BUT I FIND OUT THAT I'VE CHANGED IN THOSE FIVE YEARS.. AND YOU HAVEN'T! YOU'RE STILL A NARROW-MINDED PROVINCIAL, FEARING THE OUTSIDE WORLD BECAUSE IT'S STRANGE TO YOU AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! WELL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU ANY MORE, OSSIE.. AND I'M GLAD!
GOSH, MARCY.. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
OF COURSE YOU DON'T! ALL YOU UNDERSTAND IS YOUR FAT STOMACH AND YOUR STILL FATTER HEAD! THANKS FOR SEEING ME, OSSIE! THANKS FOR GETTING RID OF THE COBWEBS IN MY BRAIN!
YOU..YOU AIN'T GOING...YOU DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING.. AND I GOTTA PAY FOR THIS!
JUST USE IT AS A STORY TO TELL THE BOYS AROUND THE CRACKER BARREL ABOUT WHAT A CLIP TOWN NEW YORK IS... AND DON'T CALL ME MARCY!
HUH?
I RAN OUT OF THERE AS FAST AS I COULD, FILLING MY LUNGS WITH THE WONDERFULLY STIMULATING AIR OF NEW YORK! AT LAST! AT LAST I WAS FREE!
PETE WAS RIGHT! I.. OH, MY GOODNESS! PETE! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM!
I FOUND HIM AT THE RESTAURANT WHERE WE HAD MADE A DATE TO MEET... THERE HE WAS, SMILING, TENDER...
HI, SWEETHEART? DOING SOME LAST-MINUTE CLEANING UP?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WAS DOING, PETE! KISS ME, DARLING!
SURE.. BUT WHY THE SUDDEN FLURRY?
BECAUSE I JUST FOUND OUT SOMETHING, DARLING! YOU KNOW WHO MY FIRST LOVE IS? YOU!
The End

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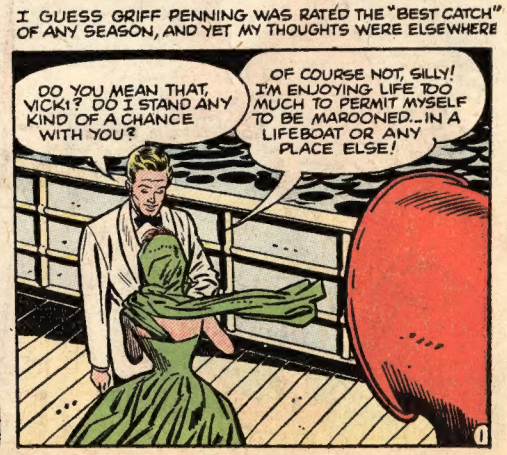
His Last Good-Bye!

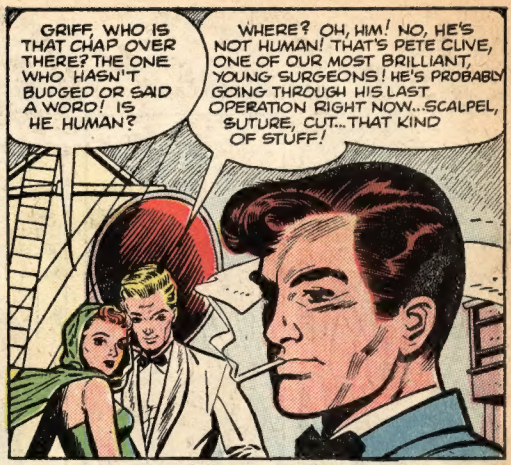
I WAS THE BELLE OF THE BALL! I WAS VAIN ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVERY MAN'S EYES WERE GLUED ON ME! I WAS PROUD ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT MY VICTORY WAS NOT REALLY COMPLETE BECAUSE THE ONE MAN WHOSE ATTENTION I YEARNED FOR SEEMED UTTERLY UNCONSCIOUS OF MY EXISTENCE!
B-360

NO BACK TALK, VICKI! THIS TIME I'M HANGING ON TO YOU FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING, EVEN IF I HAVE TO CUT A BOAT LOOSE AND ROW TO SHORE!
MAROONED IN A LIFEBOAT WITH THE OWNER OF A MILLION DOLLAR YACHT! I CAN'T THINK OF A NICER FATE!


I GUESS GRIFF PENNING WAS RATED THE "BEST CATCH" OF ANY SEASON, AND YET MY THOUGHTS WERE ELSEWHERE
DO YOU MEAN THAT, VICKI? DO I STAND ANY KIND OF A CHANCE WITH YOU?
OF COURSE NOT, SILLY! I'M ENJOYING LIFE TOO MUCH TO PERMIT MYSELF TO BE MAROONED... IN A LIFEBOAT OR ANY PLACE ELSE!

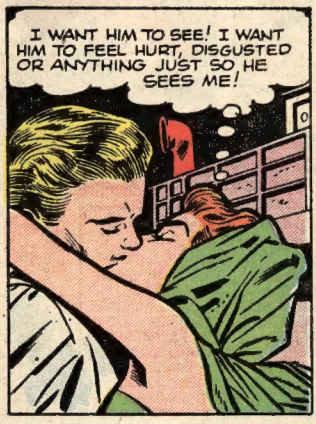
I DELIBERATELY LED GRIFF TOWARDS A SPOT FROM WHICH I COULD LOOK AGAIN AT THE ONE MAN ABOARD WHO WAS BLIND TO MY PRESENCE...

OH, WHY DOESN'T HE LOOK AT ME? WHY DOESN'T THE FOOL TURN AROUND AND JUST GIVE ME ONE LOOK...ONE LITTLE SMILE OF RECOGNITION? HE'S SO DISTANT...SO ALOOF AND SELF-POSSESSED! I ALMOST HATE HIM!


GRIFF, WHO IS THAT CHAP OVER THERE? THE ONE WHO HASN'T BUDGED OR SAID A WORD! IS HE HUMAN?
WHERE? OH, HIM! NO, HE'S NOT HUMAN! THAT'S PETE CLIVE, ONE OF OUR MOST BRILLIANT, YOUNG SURGEONS! HE'S PROBABLY GOING THROUGH HIS LAST OPERATION RIGHT NOW...SCALPEL, SUTURE, CUT...THAT KIND OF STUFF!

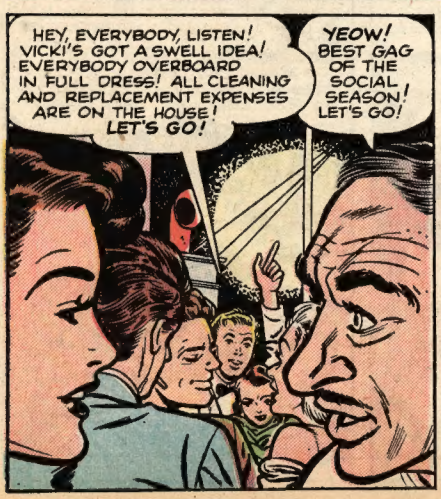
SUDDENLY, I GOT A WILD, IMPULSIVE IDEA...ONE OF THESE THAT SURGE THROUGH A PERSON LIKE AN ELECTRIC CURRENT...

HE BENT FORWARD AND PRESSED HIS LIPS TO MINE EAGERLY...

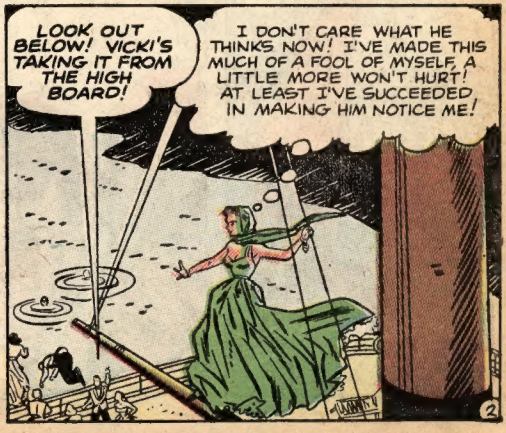


BUT IT DIDN'T WORK... AND MY OWN FRUSTRATION FOUND RELEASE IN ANOTHER WILD GESTURE...

COME ON, GRIFF! LET'S PUT SOME LIFE IN THIS PARTY! A MOONLIGHT SWIM IN FORMAL DRESS! LAST ONE OVER'S A SISSY!
HEY, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!


HEY, EVERYBODY, LISTEN! VICKI'S GOT A SWELL IDEA! EVERYBODY OVERBOARD IN FULL DRESS! ALL CLEANING AND REPLACEMENT EXPENSES ARE ON THE HOUSE! LET'S GO!
YEOW! BEST GAG OF THE SOCIAL SEASON! LET'S GO!

THE IDEA WAS CONTAGIOUS AND I WATCHED THEM DIVE OVER, BUT A STILL DEEPER IMPULSE MOTIVATED MY OWN ACTIONS...


LOOK OUT BELOW! VICKI'S TAKING IT FROM THE HIGH BOARD!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE THINKS NOW! I'VE MADE THIS MUCH OF A FOOL OF MYSELF, A LITTLE MORE WON'T HURT! AT LEAST I'VE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING HIM NOTICE ME!

I LOST MY BREATH COMING DOWN AND KNIFED INTO THE WATER LIKE AN ARROW... PLUNGING DOWN... DOWN... UNABLE TO SLOW THE DESCENT...

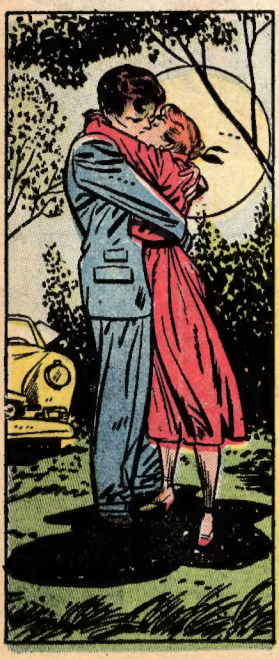
AND THEN I KNEW I HAD GONE TOO FAR! I FELT MY LUNGS BURSTING AS I STRUGGLED TO REACH THE SURFACE...

I FELT POWERFUL ARMS GRIPPING ME SAVAGELY AND THRUSTING ME VIOLENTLY UPWARDS! AN ETERNITY PASSED BY! THEN THE SWEET, LIFE-GIVING AIR RUSHED INTO MY TORTURED LUNGS...

I CAME TO IN THE STATEROOM! HE WAS SITTING AT MY SIDE, CALM BUT WORRIED, WITH A PATHETICALLY BOYISH EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY ON HIS FACE...THAT'S HOW WE FINALLY MET, PETE CLIVE AND I...

H..HI! I...I KNOW THAT WHAT I DID WAS FOOLISH.. BUT I HAD A REASON... AND I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
WE ALL DO FOOLISH THINGS NOW AND THEN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW BUT YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR A FEW SECONDS!

WE SAW EACH OTHER OFTEN AFTER THAT...AND THEN ONE NIGHT...



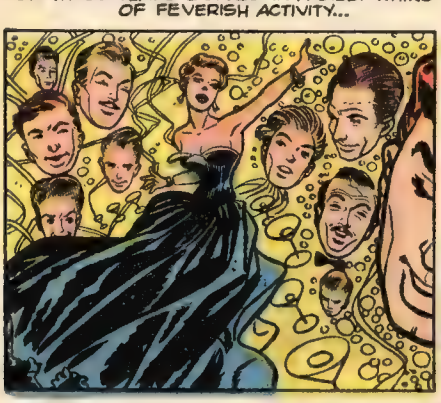
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! I CAN TELL BY THAT KISS! YOU'RE STILL ANNOYED WITH ME BECAUSE I'VE BEEN DATING OTHER MEN!
NOT ANNOYED, VICK! I'M PUZZLED! THINGS HAVE TO MAKE SENSE TO ME! MATURE PEOPLE MUST BE LOGICAL IN THEIR ACTIONS! WE LOVE EACH OTHER AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER BUSINESS!

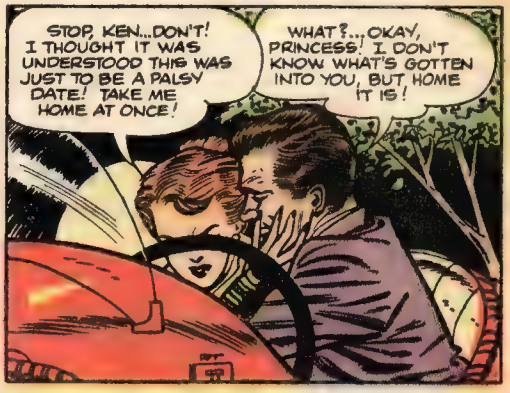
SECRETLY, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF BUT I DEFENDED AND JUSTIFIED MY ACTIONS, ANGRILY! I LOVED PETE DESPERATELY, AND YET I WAS TRYING TO HURT HIM...

THOSE DATES AREN'T SERIOUS, PETE! THEY'RE NOT LIKE THIS! WE AREN'T MARRIED..SPLICED FOR LIFE! I THINK I HAVE A RIGHT TO CONTINUE WITH MY OLD ACQUAINTANCES AND MAKE NEW ONES ALSO! IT'S MY PRIVILEGE!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, VICK! BUT IT'S NOT FOR ME! I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY! I'M A MAN WITH A MAN'S USUAL WEAKNESSES... JEALOUSY BEING ONE OF THEM! I THINK WE OUGHT TO QUIT SEEING EACH OTHER!

THAT WAS OUR FIRST GOOD-BYE! I FLUNG MYSELF INTO A FRENZY OF OTHER DATES WITH A VENGEANCE THAT SURPRISED ME IN ITS INTENSITY! FOR THREE YEARS I LIVED IN A DIZZY WHIRL OF FEVERISH ACTIVITY...

I PLAYED THE FIELD, FLIPPANT AND ELUSIVE, BENT ON CHASING THE LAST MEMORY OF PETE CLIVE OUT OF MY LIFE! BUT MY PURPOSE BACKFIRED AND I KNEW NOBODY ELSE COULD TAKE PETE'S PLACE...



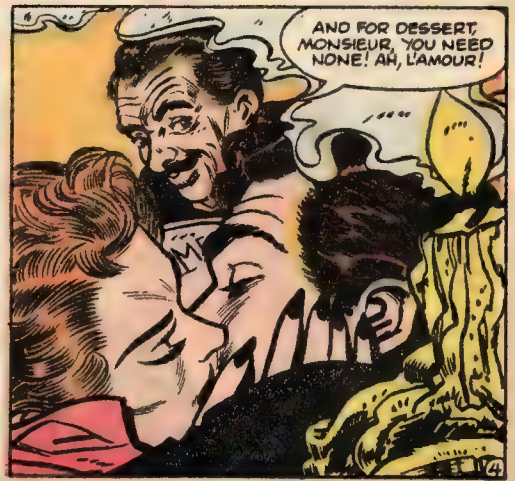

STOP, KEN...DON'T! I THOUGHT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THIS WAS JUST TO BE A PALSY DATE! TAKE ME HOME AT ONCE!
WHAT?...OKAY, PRINCESS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, BUT HOME IT IS!

PETE...PETE...IT'S ME! I HAD TO BREAK DOWN, DARLING! CAN YOU FORGIVE ME? CAN I MEET YOU RIGHT AWAY? YES...THE LITTLE PLACE IN THE VILLAGE? I'LL BE THERE, SWEETHEART! I LOVE YOU, DO YOU HEAR? I DO...I DO!

VICKI! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER CALL! GEE, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
YOU'RE NOT ANGRY THEN? OH, I'M SO GLAD, PETE! HOLD ME TIGHT, DARLING! DON'T EVER LET ME DO ANYTHING SO CHILDISH AGAIN!

IT WAS THAT WAY IN THE BEGINNING, TOO, PETE! THAT'S WHY I DID THOSE THINGS ON THE YACHT AND EVERYTHING ELSE! I DIDN'T KNOW I LOVED YOU EVEN THEN, BUT I DID!
YOU WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING, VICKI? IT TOOK ALL MY CONTROL NOT TO STARE AT YOU! I SNEAKED A GLANCE NOW AND THEN, AND SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO DO SOMETHING CRAZY AND IMPULSIVE!

VICKI, LET'S QUIT THIS DETACHED RELATIONSHIP..THIS UNCERTAIN AND UNREWARDING FRIENDSHIP! I MEAN UNREWARDING BECAUSE IT'S TEMPORARY! I'M TRYING TO SAY, LET'S GET MARRIED!
LET'S, PETE! OH, DARLING, HOW VERY MUCH I LOVE YOU!



THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE FILLED WITH A MILLION PREPARATIONS WHICH PETE AND I SPLIT BETWEEN US, BUT THERE WAS ONE SURPRISE WHOSE SECRET I ALONE KNEW...

NO, JOHNNY! PETE DOESN'T KNOW OR SUSPECT! I'M NOT EXPECTING HIM FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR OR TWO! CAN YOU SNEAK UP? YES, DEAR! YOU'RE JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM THIS ADDRESS! I'LL BE WAITING!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN AND I WAS BEING WHISKED OFF MY FEET...

HI, VICKI! LONG TIME NO SEE! GEE, BUT YOU'VE GROWN INTO A CUTE BUNDLE!

HELP! YOU'RE CRUSHING ME! PUT ME DOWN, YOU BIG BEAR!

NICE AND COZY, HUH? THIS IS ONE BRIDE WHO'LL NEVER WAIT TILL AFTER THE WEDDING FOR HER SHARE OF KISSES!

DON'T CHOKE UP ON APOLOGIES! I GUESS A TIGER NEVER CHANGES ITS STRIPES! WELL, AT LEAST IT'S BETTER TO FIND OUT NOW THAN LATER!

B...BUT, PETE! Y...YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!

HEY, GIVE US A CHANCE! WE... ER...

YOU'VE GOT YOUR CHANCE NOW...BOTH OF YOU! THE FIELD'S WIDE OPEN!

PETE! STOP, YOU IDIOT!

OHH, YOU NITWIT! JOHNNY'S MY BROTHER! THIS WAS MY SECRET... MY LITTLE SURPRISE! HE WAS TO STAND UP FOR US AS BEST MAN! OHH, YOU BEAST... HOW COULD YOU?

YOUR BROTHER? BUT... I... I...

GRAB HIM AND HOLD HIM, SIS! A GUY WITH A PUNCH LIKE THAT IS A BREAD-WINNER FROM WAY BACK!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE MINISTER THOUGHT ABOUT US, BUT I DIDN'T CARE! WE WERE ALL TOO HAPPY TO APOLOGIZE FOR JOHNNY'S APPEARANCE...

...TO CHERISH AND OBEY, THROUGH SICKNESS AND HEALTH, TILL DEATH DO YOU PART!

WE DO!

The End

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I FOUGHT FOR MY LOVE

WHEN Philip first mentioned his mother to me, I was pleased and a little shocked at his deep devotion. He didn't seem the type of man who would ever be devoted to anyone—even to me. Of course, he had asked me to marry him and I had accepted, but somehow I still felt that there was a wide gap between us, preventing me from reaching a part of Philip that our love needed. It was when I finally met Philip's mother that I realized exactly what that gap was, and why Philip's love for his mother played such a big part in his life.

My life had always been practical and straightforward. My parents died when I was in my early teens, and my mother's sister had taken the responsibility of rearing me. I decided at an early age that I wanted to be a chemist and after I received my college diploma, I went to work for the Garson Laboratories where I met Philip Brack, a fellow chemist. There had never been room in my life for parties and dates and feminine wiles.

When I fell in love with Philip, I discovered my lack of the feminine pose, and I guess, I even regretted it. Not that I had been unhappy with my life so far, but I felt that Philip would have preferred a fiancée with frills and curls instead of tailored suits and short, straight hair.

Driving out to meet Philip's mother, Mrs. Brack, that memorable Sunday afternoon, Philip was as excited as a child confronted with his favorite toy.

"You'll love Mother," he kept saying. "She's really swell."

"I just hope she approves of me," I said. "From what you've told me, she'll probably be awfully particular about whom her son marries."

"Well, you know how mothers are about their only sons," he said. "They sometimes think that they are perfect human beings who are *entitled* to the very best in life." He looked over at me and taking my hand he said, "And anyways, she'll see, just as I've seen, that you are part of that 'very best'!"

I fell into the spirit of his optimism for a while, but as he brought the car to a stop in front of a large Victorian house, all my fears seemed to spring up again and warn me of an impending danger.

Philip helped me out of the car and held onto my arm lightly as we went up on the porch. He rang the doorbell and then opened the door and ushered me inside a dark anteroom.

"Is that you, dear?" a voice called.

"Yes, Mother."

"Come on into the library," she said. "I've been waiting for you."

From the moment I saw her, I knew we were enemies. She took no notice of me when we walked into the library—she ignored me as openly as if I didn't exist. Her eyes were focused on Philip, and those eyes told me that she would never let anyone take him away from her.

Philip kissed her on the forehead as she smiled adoringly into his face.

"Hello, darling," he said. "How do you feel for an old lady?"

"I'm not too old to forget how I used to turn you over my knee for an impertinent remark like that," she laughed.

"Well, Mother, here she is," Philip said, pushing me a little forward to her. "This is Beth . . . my Beth."

Mrs. Brack turned toward me and took me in with one sweep of her glance, and then she turned to Philip again. "Why, she's wonderful," she said with the utmost warmth, "quite wonderful! I always knew that you'd choose the best. Didn't I, Phil, boy?"

"You're very kind," I managed to mumble.

"Nonsense," she said to me. "You're just what Philip needs—good and substantial."

"I'm not too sure how substantial I am," I said with a false laugh, "but I hope I *am* what Philip needs."

I tried to keep my voice light and even gay, but I knew my eyes were gravely searching Philip for some sign that told me all was going well. We chatted on and when the conversation turned to me, I briefly filled in my personal history.

"So that's why you became a chemist," she said. "To escape your past life."

"I'm not escaping, Mrs. Brack," I said sincerely. "I love my work. And I loved my childhood, too."

"But you've never known the love of a mother," she said, "the true, deep love of a mother."

She reached over to take Philip's hand when she said this—and for a moment, I felt that she was winning.

Philip was innocent of the

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scene of jealousy being enacted in front of his eyes when he said, "But now she *has* a mother, darling. You'll be mother to both of us."

After the ice had been broken with his mother and me, she was constantly with us. No matter where we went or what we did, Mrs. Brack managed to squeeze into the middle of the front seat of Philip's coupe between Philip and me. On the surface she still pretended that I was the only girl in the world for Philip, but that didn't restrain her from making daily digs about my dress, my manners, and my job.

"Being a chemist hardly seems a job befitting a young woman," she'd say. "Look how those horrid, old chemicals have stained your hands."

I tried to take all of her criticism good-naturedly and sometimes I'd even explain to her the beneficial work I was engaged in. But she either didn't understand or wouldn't understand; all she knew was the fact that I wasn't playing the part of the helpless female—the part that she had played all her life.

The show-down came, as I knew it would, the day that Philip came bursting into the laboratory with a letter in his hand.

"We've done it, darling," he shouted. "They've transferred us to Washington to continue our work on synthetics. We'll be working with the greatest minds in the country."

"Oh, Phil, this is too good to be true."

"This is a break for *us*, too," he said, taking hold of both my hands. "We can go to Washington as Mr. and Mrs. Brack, two eminent chemists."

For the first time in months I was truly happy—not only because of our good fortune, but, also, because I knew Mrs. Brack would never let Philip go—especially since it meant that he'd be taking a wife with him, and all this meant a final show-down.

We were at dinner at Philip's house when he broke the news to Mrs. Brack and for a moment I could see that she was stunned. She kept herself steady and beyond reproach by congratulating us on our good fortune, but while we were having our demitasse her sweetness began to fade away.

"I feel very lonely looking at you two young people so happy," she said softly. "Philip, I think you're being unfair."

Philip looked up startled and for a moment he found it difficult to speak. "How, Mother?"

"By not considering my feelings," she said bitterly. "You are rushing into marriage and rushing to a new city and leaving me behind with no regrets."

"You can hardly say that we've been 'rushing'," I said. "Philip and I've known each other for over a year."

"It is not for you to correct me," she said, her eyes aflame. "I'm discussing this with *my* boy—and you haven't got him yet!"

I was shocked that she'd bring the subject out in the open, but I realized that she was beginning to worry that I just might be on the winning side. A thought that had never occurred to her before.

Philip was stunned and his rebuttal was weak considering that he was in love with me and wanted to marry me. He explained that he thought she'd be pleased with the idea and his strides toward happiness.

"You've always had plenty of friends," he continued. "I thought you'd be able to take care of things here by yourself—and, of course, you'd be welcomed if you want to go along with us."

"You know I'd never leave my home," she said, beginning to cry—without a sign of a tear. "I thought you'd been happy with me here."

From there on the conversation drifted into Philip's ungratefulness in wanting to leave home, and I couldn't stand any more. I told Philip this as I started for the door.

"This is a choice you have to make yourself," I said. "Your mother and I have different ideas about an individual's right to happiness. If you want me, you know where I'll be."

When I left, I thought I saw triumph in her eyes and I was frightened that I had left the battle too soon. His mother would be using all the feminine wiles I had never learned—and my only weapon was my faith in Philip integrity to stand up for his rights to a good life.

Back in my own apartment I felt lost for the first time in my life. I knew that I had behaved the only way I knew how to behave, but I, also, knew that the right path was not necessarily the happy path to take.

I must have slept for hours when the sound of the doorbell awakened me. The room was in total darkness and I had to feel my way to the light switch by the door. When the door opened, my eyes refused to focus for a moment, but when they did, I felt the tears well up in them. It was Philip. He didn't say anything as he took me in his arms. He didn't have to. I knew and he knew that the gap between us was beginning to close and we had won our first battle—that of fighting for our precious love!

THE END

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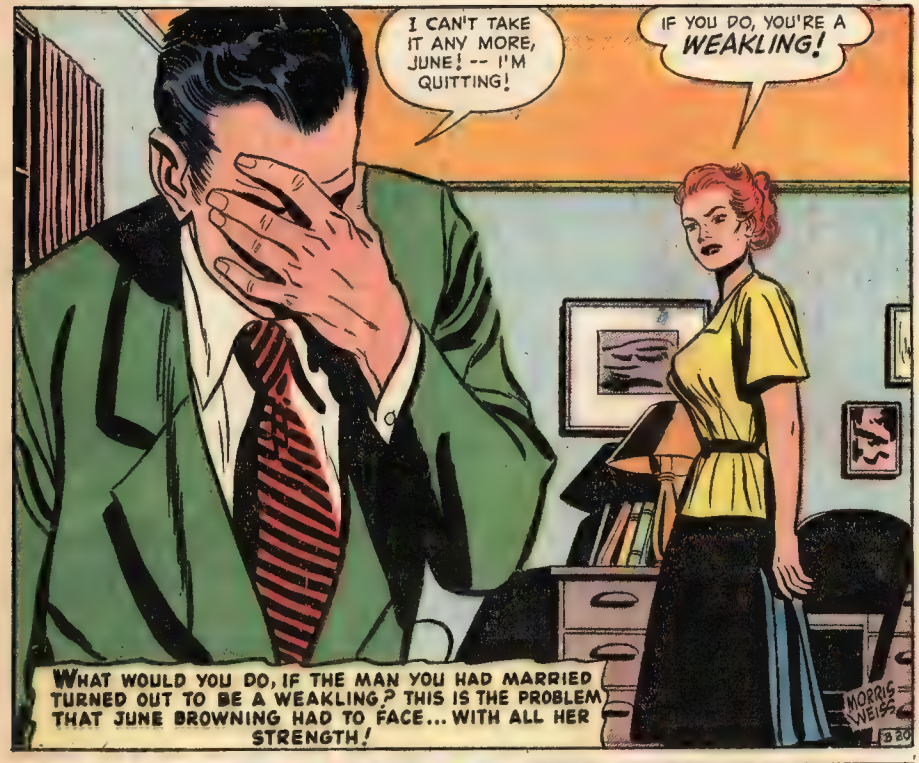

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE, JUNE! -- I'M QUITTING!
IF YOU DO, YOU'RE A WEAKLING!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, IF THE MAN YOU HAD MARRIED TURNED OUT TO BE A WEAKLING? THIS IS THE PROBLEM THAT JUNE BROWNING HAD TO FACE... WITH ALL HER STRENGTH!
MORRIS WEISS
B 20

I SHALL NEVER FORGET GEORGE'S HOMECOMING! IT WAS THE THIRD DAY OF SPRING, AND HE WAS BACK WITH HIS HONORABLE DISCHARGE, AFTER HAVING SERVED OVERSEAS FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS! WE FELL INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS, AND REVEALED OUR HEARTS! I FELT THAT I SURELY WAS THE HAPPIEST GIRL ALIVE!

THE FIRST SUNDAY THAT GEORGE WAS HOME, WE SPENT TOGETHER! HE MET ME EARLY IN THE MORNING AND WE WENT TO THE COUNTRY! I KNEW THAT HE HAD LOTS OF THINGS ON HIS MIND, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL THE AFTERNOON THAT GEORGE BEGAN TALKING QUITE SERIOUSLY...

I HAD LOTS OF TIME TO THINK WHILE I WAS IN THOSE MUD-HOLES, JUNE! SOMEHOW, I'VE TRIED TO FIND A PURPOSE FOR THE WHOLE THING--A PURPOSE FOR MY EXISTENCE! JUST BEING A SUCCESS IN BUSINESS AND EARNING MONEY AREN'T ENOUGH--I WANT MORE THAN THAT NOW!

I'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO COLLEGE! I WANT TO TEACH! I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IF I DEVOTE MY LIFE TO BEING A TEACHER, I WILL RECEIVE MORE SATISFACTION THAN I WOULD FROM ANY OTHER WORK!

I'M HAPPY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, GEORGE! FEW PEOPLE *EVER* FIND THEIR PROPER NICHE!

SURE, THAT PART IS SWELL ... BUT THERE'S ANOTHER THING I WANT, JUNE--AND THAT IS TO MARRY YOU! HOW CAN I GO BACK TO COLLEGE AND SUPPORT A WIFE?

THAT'S SIMPLE! YOU WON'T HAVE TO SUPPORT ME!

AFTER WE'RE MARRIED, I CAN GET A JOB AND WORK WHILE YOU FINISH YOUR STUDIES!

MY DARLING! MY SWEET JUNE--I LOVE YOU SO!

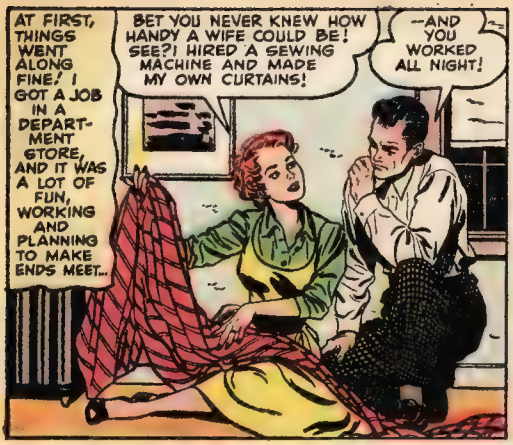
IT WAS THREE WEEKS LATER WHEN I REALIZED THE GREATEST AMBITION A GIRL COULD HAVE--TO MARRY THE MAN SHE LOVES...

I PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

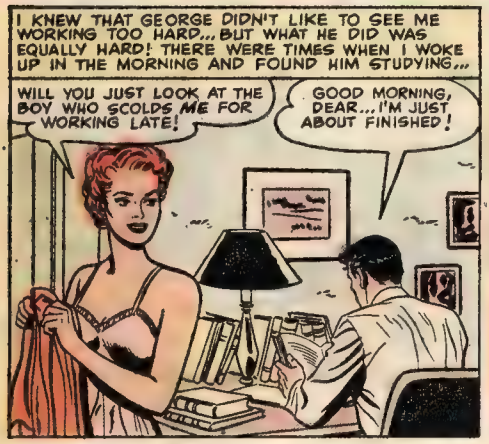
THE BEST WE WERE ABLE TO AFFORD WAS A SMALL TWO-ROOM FURNISHED APARTMENT NEAR THE COLLEGE! IT WAS IN A RATHER SHABBY BUILDING, AND IT MEANT A FOUR-FLOOR WALK-UP FOR US! GEORGE FELT PRETTY BAD ABOUT IT, AND I TRIED TO CHEER HIM UP...

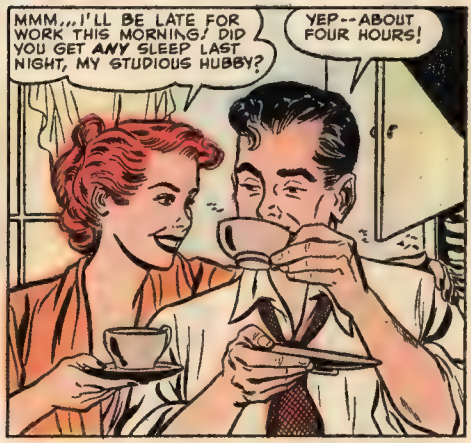
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU MORE THAN THIS, DARLING!

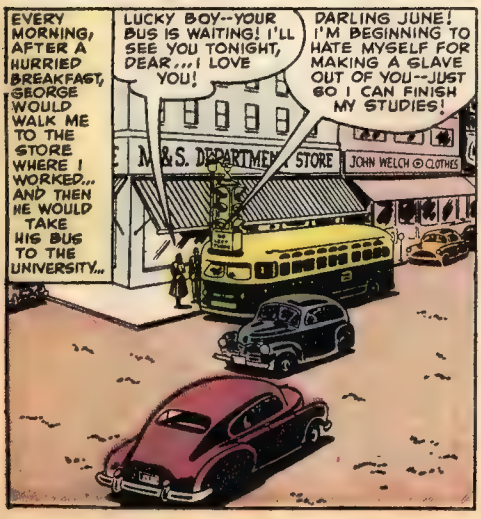
IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY, DEAR--JUST TILL YOU GET YOUR DEGREE!

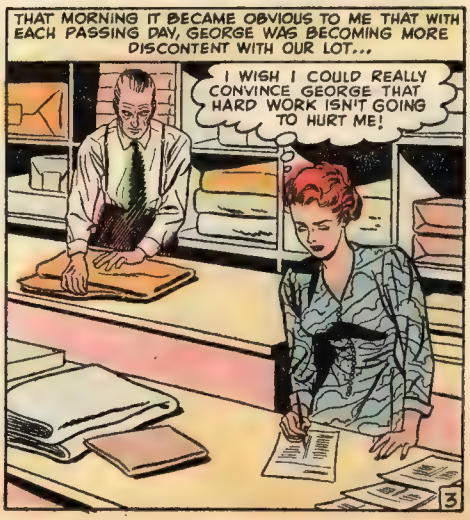

AT FIRST, THINGS WENT ALONG FINE! I GOT A JOB IN A DEPARTMENT STORE, AND IT WAS A LOT OF FUN, WORKING AND PLANNING TO MAKE ENDS MEET...
BET YOU NEVER KNEW HOW HANDY A WIFE COULD BE! SEE?! HIRED A SEWING MACHINE AND MADE MY OWN CURTAINS!
--AND YOU WORKED ALL NIGHT!

I LOVE IT... I'M WORKING FOR THE MAN I LOVE!
JUNE--SOMEDAY I'LL MAKE IT ALL UP TO YOU!

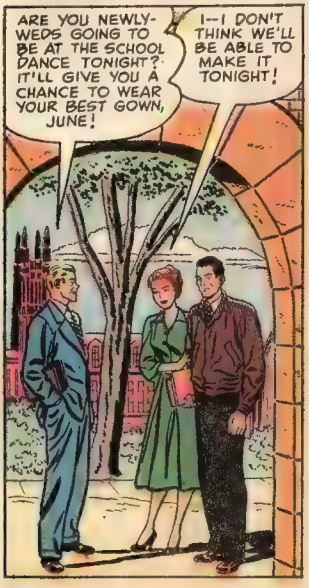

I KNEW THAT GEORGE DIDN'T LIKE TO SEE ME WORKING TOO HARD... BUT WHAT HE DID WAS EQUALLY HARD! THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING AND FOUND HIM STUDYING...
WILL YOU JUST LOOK AT THE BOY WHO SCOLDS ME FOR WORKING LATE!
GOOD MORNING, DEAR... I'M JUST ABOUT FINISHED!

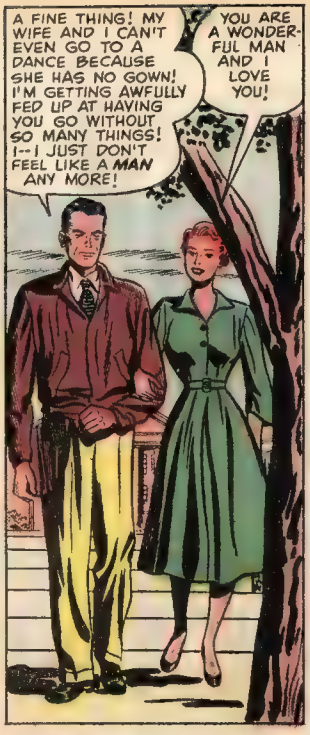

MMM... I'LL BE LATE FOR WORK THIS MORNING! DID YOU GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT, MY STUDIOUS HUBBY?
YEP--ABOUT FOUR HOURS!


EVERY MORNING, AFTER A HURRIED BREAKFAST, GEORGE WOULD WALK ME TO THE STORE WHERE I WORKED... AND THEN HE WOULD TAKE HIS BUS TO THE UNIVERSITY...
LUCKY BOY--YOUR BUS IS WAITING! I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT, DEAR... I LOVE YOU!
DARLING JUNE! I'M BEGINNING TO HATE MYSELF FOR MAKING A GLAVE OUT OF YOU--JUST SO I CAN FINISH MY STUDIES!
JOHN WELCH CLOTHES


THAT MORNING IT BECAME OBVIOUS TO ME THAT WITH EACH PASSING DAY, GEORGE WAS BECOMING MORE DISCONTENT WITH OUR LOT...
I WISH I COULD REALLY CONVINCE GEORGE THAT HARD WORK ISN'T GOING TO HURT ME!
3

IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, GEORGE'S ATTITUDE ABOUT SCHOOL BECAME COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS WHEN WE GOT MARRIED! HIS SPIRIT HIT AN ALL-TIME LOW THAT DAY WE WERE WALKING ON THE CAMPUS AND HE STOPPED TO TALK TO BILL CROWDER, A CLASSMATE...


ARE YOU NEWLY-WEDS GOING TO BE AT THE SCHOOL DANCE TONIGHT? IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WEAR YOUR BEST GOWN, JUNE!
I--I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TONIGHT!


A FINE THING! MY WIFE AND I CAN'T EVEN GO TO A DANCE BECAUSE SHE HAS NO GOWN! I'M GETTING AWFULLY FED UP AT HAVING YOU GO WITHOUT SO MANY THINGS! I--I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE A MAN ANY MORE!
YOU ARE A WONDERFUL MAN AND I LOVE YOU!

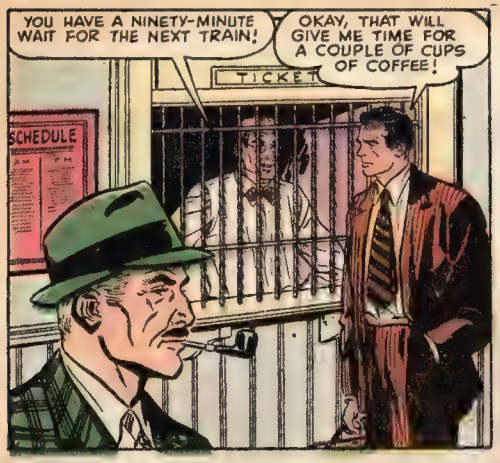
THAT'S JUST WHY I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE! YOU'RE PAYING AN AWFULLY BIG PRICE FOR LOVING ME! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW I FEEL WHEN I SEE YOU WORKING LIKE A DOG WHILE I GO TO SCHOOL LIKE A LITTLE BOY?
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, GEORGE FOSTER! YOU CAME BACK FROM THE ARMY WITH SOME GRAND IDEAS, AND IF YOU DON'T STICK TO THEM, I'LL LOSE ALL MY RESPECT FOR YOU!

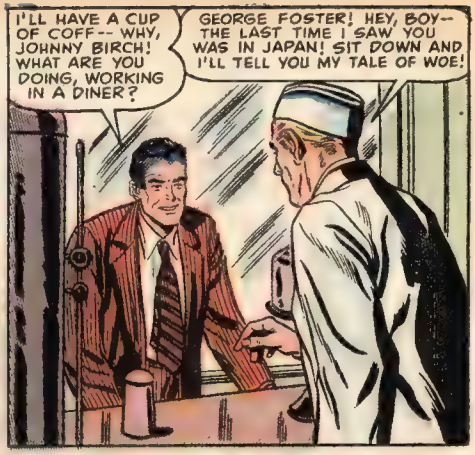
IT WAS ABOUT A WEEK LATER THAT GEORGE REALLY THREW IN THE TOWEL! I HAD TO WORK OVER-TIME THAT WEEK, AND MY NERVES HAD ALSO BEEN STRAINED...

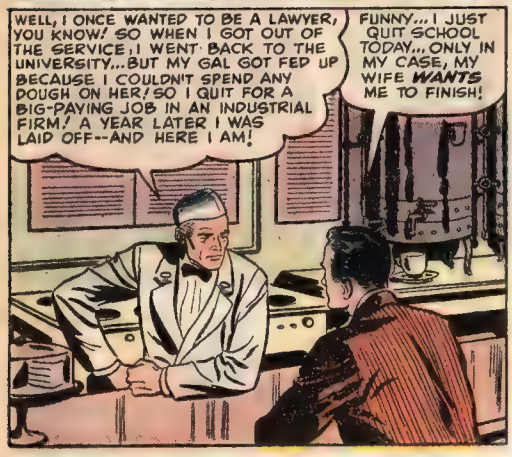
I'M QUITTING, JUNE! WE'RE LEAVING HERE! I'M GOING TO GET A JOB AND EARN SOME MONEY! IT'S TIME I STARTED ACTING LIKE A HUSBAND!
YOU'RE ONLY ACTING LIKE A WEAKLING! IF YOU QUIT, YOU GO WITHOUT ME!

I KNEW EVEN THEN THAT I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID, BUT MY WORDS BIT INTO GEORGE'S PRIDE... HE QUIETLY PACKED HIS BAG, AND I STOOD THERE, SILENT, AS I WATCHED HIM WALK OUT OF THE DOOR...

I DIDN'T LEARN WHAT HAPPENED NEXT UNTIL MUCH LATER! BUT AS I STOOD THERE WITH MY HEART BREAKING, GEORGE WENT TO THE STATION AND...

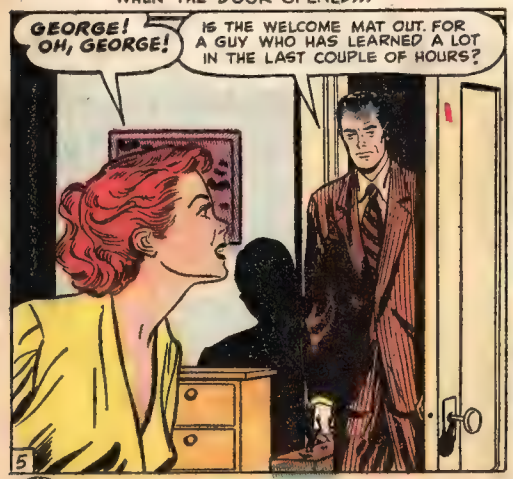



I'LL HAVE A CUP OF COFF-- WHY, JOHNNY BIRCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WORKING IN A DINER?
GEORGE FOSTER! HEY, BOY-- THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS IN JAPAN! SIT DOWN AND I'LL TELL YOU MY TALE OF WOE!


WELL, I ONCE WANTED TO BE A LAWYER, YOU KNOW! SO WHEN I GOT OUT OF THE SERVICE, I WENT BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY... BUT MY GAL GOT FED UP BECAUSE I COULDN'T SPEND ANY DOUGH ON HER! SO I QUIT FOR A BIG-PAYING JOB IN AN INDUSTRIAL FIRM! A YEAR LATER I WAS LAID OFF--AND HERE I AM!
FUNNY... I JUST QUIT SCHOOL TODAY... ONLY IN MY CASE, MY WIFE *WANTS* ME TO FINISH!

BUT GOSH, JOHNNY, I CAN'T STAND BY, WATCHING HER MAKE THOSE SACRIFICES...
GEORGE, YOU'VE GOT A SMART WIFE... SHE'S GOT HER EYE ON THE *FUTURE*! PLEASE, DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE I MADE!

I HAD JUST ABOUT CRIED MY EYES OUT, AND FELT AS THOUGH MY WHOLE WORLD HAD COME TO AN END, WHEN THE DOOR OPENED...



I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL MAKE A GOOD TEACHER, DARLING... BUT WITH THE GREATEST GIRL IN THE WORLD BY MY SIDE, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO BE!
YOU'LL MAKE A *WONDERFUL* TEACHER, MY LOVE-- BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND TO DO WHEN YOU SEARCHED YOUR CONSCIENCE!
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Relaxing • Soothing Penetrating Massage

PLUG IN GRASP HANDLE AND APPLY

UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY APPROVED

FOR GREATEST BENEFIT IN REDUCING by massage use SPOT REDUCER with or without electricity—Also used as an aid in the relief of pains for which massage is indicated.

Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and turkish baths—MASSAGE!

TAKE OFF EXCESS WEIGHT!

Don't Stay FAT—You Can LOSE POUNDS and INCHES SAFELY Without Risking HEALTH

LIKE a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steambaths, drugs or laxatives.

With the SPOT REDUCER you can now enjoy the benefits of RELAXING, SOOTHING massage in the privacy of your own home! Simple to use—just plug in, grasp handle and apply over most any part of the body—stomach, hips, chest, neck, thighs, arms, buttocks, etc. The relaxing, soothing massage breaks down FATTY TISSUES, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat—helps you regain and keep a firmer and more GRACEFUL FIGURE!

YOUR OWN PRIVATE MASSEUR AT HOME

When you use the Spot Reducer, it's almost like having your own private masseur at home. It's fun reducing this way! It not only helps you reduce and keep slim—but also aids in the relief of those types of aches and pains—and tired nerves that can be helped by massage! The Spot Reducer is handsomely made of light weight aluminum and rubber and truly a beautiful invention you will be thankful you own. AC 110 volts. Underwriters Laboratory approved.

MAIL THIS 10 DAY FREE TRIAL COUPON NOW!

TRY THE SPOT REDUCER 10 DAYS FREE IN YOUR OWN HOME!

Mail this coupon with only $1 for your Spot Reducer on approval. Pay postman $8.95 plus delivery—or send $9.95 (full price) and we ship postage prepaid. Use it for ten days in your own home. Then if not delighted return Spot Reducer for full purchase price refund. Don't delay! You have nothing to lose—except ugly, embarrassing, undesirable pounds of FAT. MAIL COUPON now!

SENT ON APPROVAL—MAIL COUPON NOW!

SPOT REDUCER CO., Dept. B-74
318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey

Please send me the Standard Model SPOT REDUCER for 10 days trial period. I enclose $1.00, upon arrival I will pay postman only $8.95 plus postage and handling. If not delighted I may return SPOT REDUCER within 10 days for prompt refund of full purchase price.

☐ I enclose $12.95. Send DeLux Model, postage pre-paid.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____

☐ SAVE POSTAGE—check here if you enclose $12.95 for DeLux Model. We pay all postage and handling charges. Same money back guarantee applies.

☐ I enclose $9.95. Send Standard Model.

LOSE WEIGHT OR NO CHARGE

ALSO USE IT FOR ACHES AND PAINS

CAN'T SLEEP:

Relax with electric Spot Reducer. See how soothing its gentle massage can be. Helps you sleep when massage can be of benefit

MUSCULAR ACHES:

A handy helper for transient relief of discomforts that can be aided by gentle, relaxing massage.

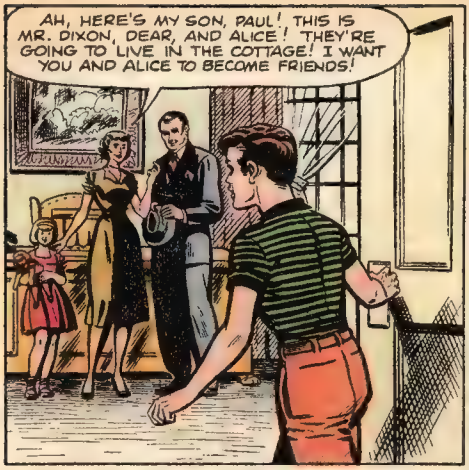
LOSE WEIGHT OR NO CHARGE

USED BY EXPERTS

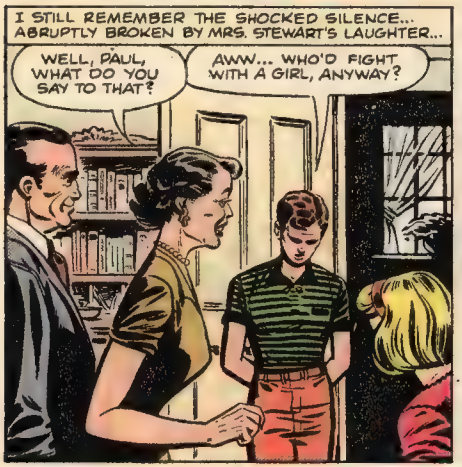
Thousands have lost weight this way — in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, necks, buttocks, etc. The same method used by stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The Spot Reducer can be used in your spare time, in the privacy of your own room.

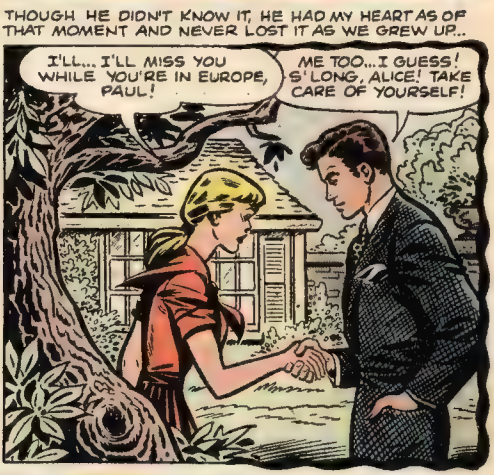
ORDER IT TODAY!

I'll Wait Forever!
I'M SO HAPPY PAUL'S GOING TO MARRY YOU, GLORIA!
OH, DAD, I'VE LOVED HIM... AND WAITED...ALL THESE YEARS... AND NOW...
I'D WAITED PATIENTLY SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN... SURE THAT ONE DAY PAUL WOULD REALIZE HE LOVED ME... BUT NOW IT WAS TOO LATE!
B-223
TODAY'S THE DAY HE'S COMING HOME...AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! OH, PAUL...THESE LAST HOURS ARE GOING TO BE THE LONGEST OF ALL!
I GUESS I'D LOVED PAUL STEWART EVER SINCE THE DAY DAD AND I FIRST CAME TO LIVE ON THE STEWART ESTATE, WHERE DAD WAS GOING TO BE CARETAKER...
WELL, MR. DIXON, I THINK YOU'LL BE HAPPY HERE WITH US... YOU AND LITTLE ALICE!
I'M SURE WE WILL, MRS. STEWART!


AH, HERE'S MY SON, PAUL! THIS IS MR. DIXON, DEAR, AND ALICE! THEY'RE GOING TO LIVE IN THE COTTAGE! I WANT YOU AND ALICE TO BECOME FRIENDS!

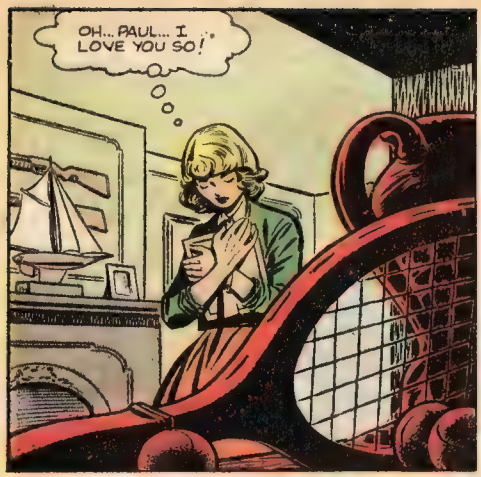
AW, MA, SHE'S A GIRL... AND SO LITTLE!
I AM NOT LITTLE! I'M NINE... AND I CAN LICK YOU ANYTIME!

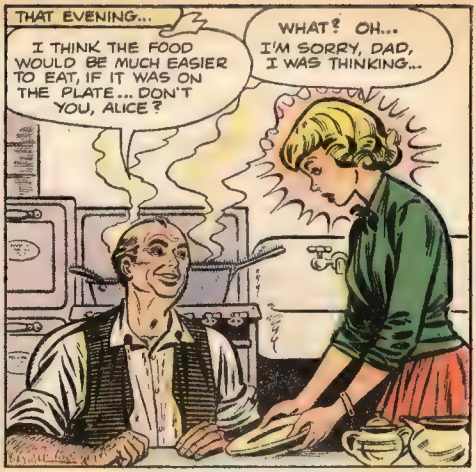

I STILL REMEMBER THE SHOCKED SILENCE... ABRUPTLY BROKEN BY MRS. STEWART'S LAUGHTER...
WELL, PAUL, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?
AWW... WHO'D FIGHT WITH A GIRL, ANYWAY?

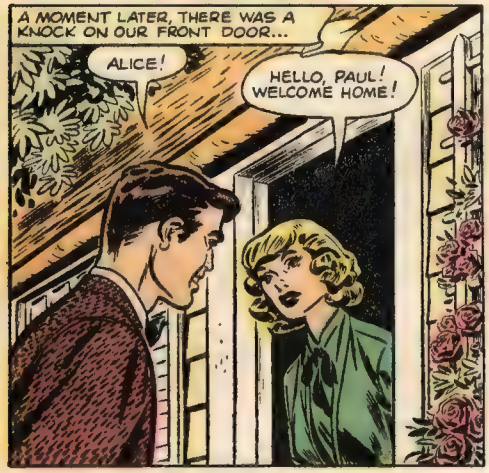

THOUGH HE DIDN'T KNOW IT, HE HAD MY HEART AS OF THAT MOMENT AND NEVER LOST IT AS WE GREW UP..
I'LL... I'LL MISS YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN EUROPE, PAUL!
ME TOO... I GUESS! S'LONG, ALICE! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

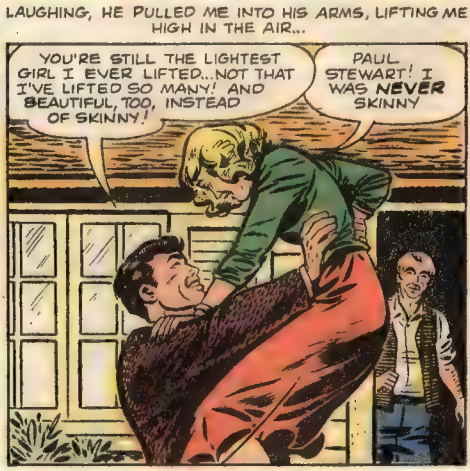
AND I DID MISS HIM ... FOR FIVE LONG YEARS! NOW HE WAS COMING HOME, AND, THE BIG HOUSE WAS A HUBBUB OF EXCITEMENT...
AND TELL THE FLORIST I WANT THE DECORATIONS UP NO LATER THAN FIVE!
YES, MA'AM!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

THERE CERTAINLY IS! YOU CAN GO UP TO PAUL'S OLD ROOM, AND SEE IF IT'S THE WAY HE LEFT IT! I REMEMBER HOW YOU TWO USED TO PLAY THERE... AND I WANT IT EXACTLY AS IT USED TO BE!
2


OH... PAUL... I LOVE YOU SO!


THAT EVENING...
I THINK THE FOOD WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO EAT, IF IT WAS ON THE PLATE... DON'T YOU, ALICE?
WHAT? OH... I'M SORRY, DAD, I WAS THINKING...

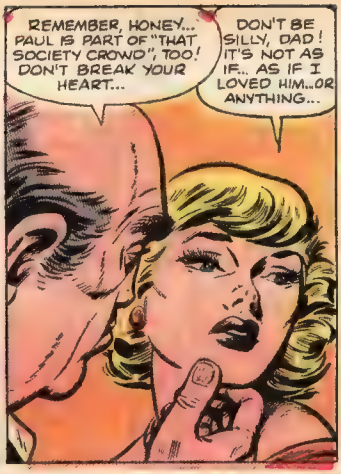

A MOMENT LATER, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON OUR FRONT DOOR...
ALICE!
HELLO, PAUL! WELCOME HOME!


LAUGHING, HE PULLED ME INTO HIS ARMS, LIFTING ME HIGH IN THE AIR...
YOU'RE STILL THE LIGHTEST GIRL I EVER LIFTED...NOT THAT I'VE LIFTED SO MANY! AND BEAUTIFUL, TOO, INSTEAD OF SKINNY!
PAUL STEWART! I WAS NEVER SKINNY

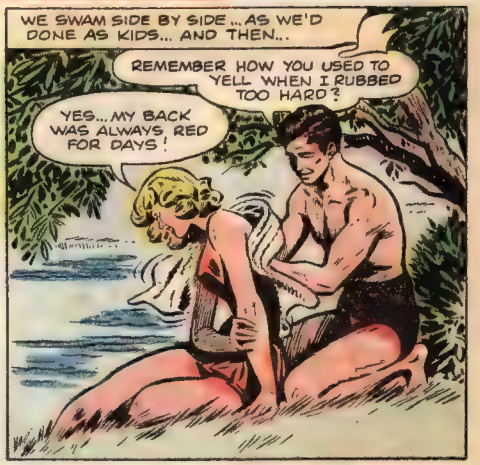
HOW ARE YOU, SIR?
YOU'RE LOOKING FINE, MY BOY!
JUST WONDERFUL!

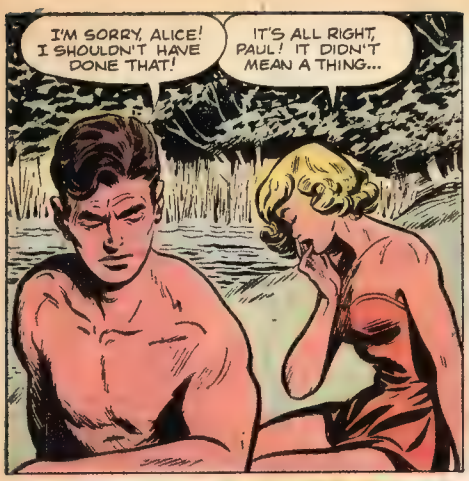
YOU'RE COMING TO MY WELCOME HOME PARTY TOMORROW NIGHT, AREN'T YOU, ALICE?
OF COURSE, PAUL! AS IF I'D MISS IT!
3

NEXT MORNING, I CAREFULLY IRONED MY ONE FORMAL GOWN, AND...

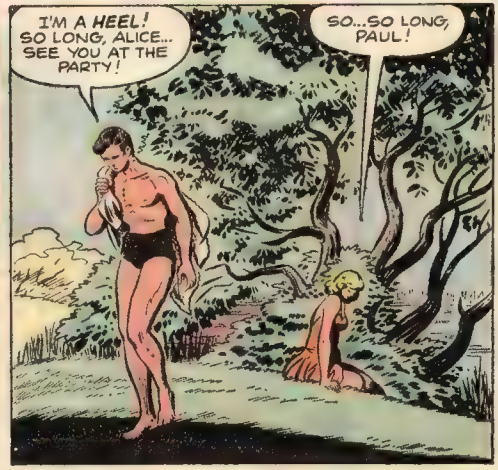

REMEMBER, HONEY... PAUL IS PART OF "THAT SOCIETY CROWD", TOO! DON'T BREAK YOUR HEART...
DON'T BE SILLY, DAD! IT'S NOT AS IF... AS IF I LOVED HIM...OR ANYTHING...

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, OF COURSE, BUT I REFUSED TO THINK ABOUT THE HOPELESSNESS OF MY LOVE! THAT AFTERNOON, I WENT DOWN TO THE STEWARTS' LAKE FOR A SWIM...TO BE ALONE AND THINK...

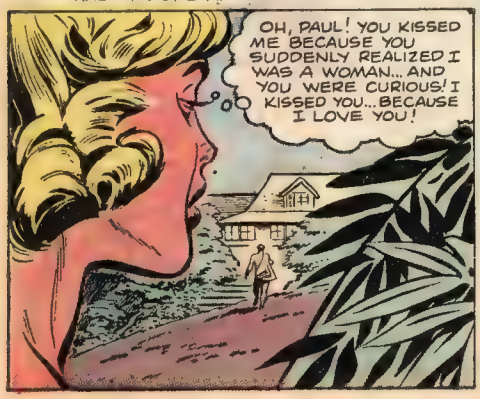

WE SWAM SIDE BY SIDE...AS WE'D DONE AS KIDS... AND THEN...
REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO YELL WHEN I RUBBED TOO HARD?
YES... MY BACK WAS ALWAYS RED FOR DAYS!

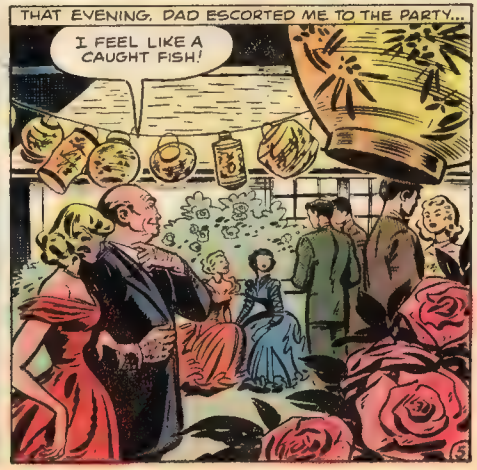


I TRIED TO LOOK AT HIM EVENLY AS I SPOKE, BUT THERE WAS A STRANGE WONDERMENT IN HIS EYES... AND I KNEW HE WAS GOING TO KISS ME AGAIN...

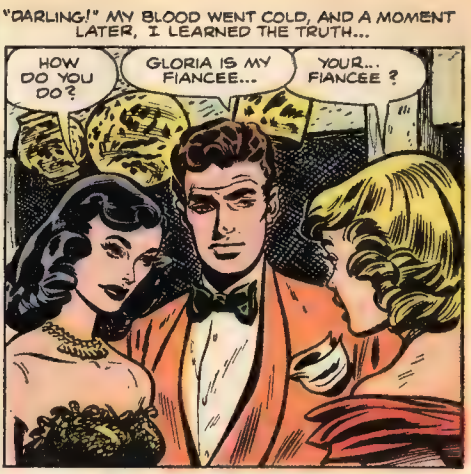


I FELT WONDERFUL...AND TERRIBLE! HAPPIER THAN I HAD EVER BEEN...AND MORE MISERABLE... BUT WHY HAD HE CALLED HIMSELF A "HEEL"? HE HADN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...





AS SOON AS I SAW PAUL DANCING WITH A STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL GIRL, A TINGLE OF FOREBODING SWEPT THROUGH ME...
BUT I WANT TO FINISH THIS DANCE...
LATER! I WANT YOU TO MEET TWO GREAT PEOPLE! ALICE, THIS IS GLORIA WILLS! THIS IS ALICE DIXON, AND HER FATHER, DARLING!

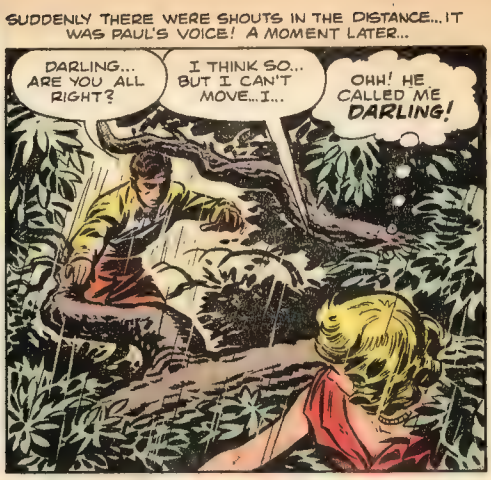

"DARLING!" MY BLOOD WENT COLD, AND A MOMENT LATER, I LEARNED THE TRUTH...
HOW DO YOU DO?
GLORIA IS MY FIANCEE...
YOUR... FIANCEE ?

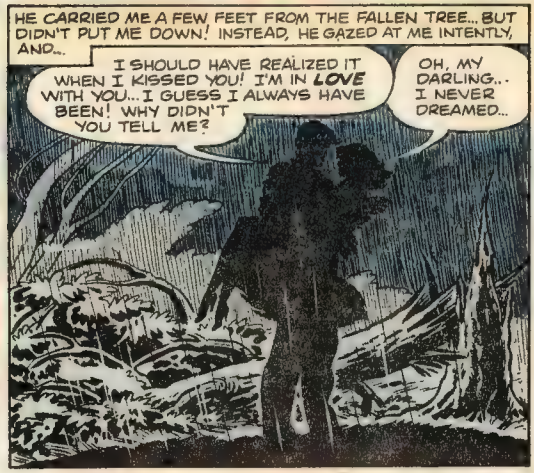
SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO GET THROUGH ANOTHER HOUR OF THE PARTY! I EVEN DANCED WITH PAUL TWICE...CHATTED WITH GLORIA AND MRS. STEWART, BUT ALL THE TIME, SOMETHING HORRIBLE WAS BURNING UP INSIDE ME, AND FINALLY...
I MUST GO NOW, MRS. STEWART...
WHAT'S WRONG, ALICE? ARE YOU ILL?

I MUMBLED SOMETHING AND HURRIED AWAY! IT HAD BEGUN TO RAIN...HARD... BUT I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT...
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THERE... FROM HIM... OH, PAUL, I WAS SUCH A FOOL TO THINK... TO THINK...(SOB!)...

(SOB!).. (SOB!)..

SUDDENLY...
OHHHH... THE LIGHTNING.. THAT TREE...
CRACK
6


SUDDENLY THERE WERE SHOUTS IN THE DISTANCE... IT WAS PAUL'S VOICE! A MOMENT LATER...
DARLING... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK SO... BUT I CAN'T MOVE... I...
OHH! HE CALLED ME DARLING!


HE CARRIED ME A FEW FEET FROM THE FALLEN TREE... BUT DIDN'T PUT ME DOWN! INSTEAD, HE GAZED AT ME INTENTLY, AND...
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT WHEN I KISSED YOU! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU... I GUESS I ALWAYS HAVE BEEN! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
OH, MY DARLING... I NEVER DREAMED...

WHEN I HEARD YOUR SCREAM... AND THE CRASH... SOMETHING SNAPPED INSIDE ME! AND I KNEW THAT IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU... I COULDN'T HAVE GONE ON!

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- or
- ☐ MOST LOVED HYMNS
- or
- ☐ HILL BILLY HITS

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YOU GET A $16.02 Value For $2.98 You SAVE $13.04

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Slow Poke
Tell Me Why
Cry
The Little White Cloud That Cried
Charmaine
Anytime
Jealousy
Shrimp Boats
Be My Life's Companion
Please, Mr. Sun
Bermuda
Wheel of Fortune
Tiger Rag
Blacksmith Blues
Mambone
Blue Tango
Perfidia

OR 18 HILL BILLY HITS

It Is No Secret
May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You
Give Me More, More, More
Baby, We're Really in Love
Hey, Good Lookin'
Alabama Jubilee
Always Late
Cryin' Heart Blues
Sanibone's Bron
Beatin' My Time
Slow Poke
Let Old Mother Nature Have Her Way
Crazy Heart
Mom and Dad's Waltz
Silver and Gold Wonderful
Bundle of Southern Sunshine
Too Old To Cut The Mustard
Music Makin' Mama From Memphis

OR 18 MOST LOVED HYMNS

The Lord's Prayer
Onward, Christian Soldiers
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Church in the Wildwood
In the Garden
Faith of Our Fathers
There Is Power in the Blood
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Since Jesus Came Into My Heart
Trust on Me
Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross
Softly and Tenderly
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
A Mighty Fortress
Son of My Soul
It Is No Secret What God Can Do
May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You
Just a Closer Walk with Thee

These tunes are constantly kept up to date—only the newest tunes are kept on the list.

NOW, for the FIRST TIME—You can have the BRAND NEW ALL-TIME HITS and POPULAR RECORDINGS—18 NEWEST All-Time Hits, Favorites in all—For the AMAZING, unbelievably LOW PRICE of only $2.98. That's right, 18 TOP Selections that if bought separately would **cost up to $16.02 in stores**, on separate records—**YOURS** by mail for only $2.98! YES, you can now get 18 **HIT PARADE** songs—the LATEST, the NEWEST nation-wide **HIT PARADE TUNES**—or 18 of the most POPULAR HILL BILLY tunes, some of these tunes are not yet sold by stores or you get almost a whole, complete album of your most wanted HYMNS. These are tunes you have always wanted, they will give you hours of pleasure. You can choose from THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS—on newest most sensational BREAK-RESISTANT records! These amazing records are 6-IN-1 records—6 songs to a record! They are brand new and play three times as many songs as regular records, and they play on regular 78 R.P.M. speed and fit all type 78 R.P.M. standard phonograph and record players. These are all perfect, BREAK-RESISTANT, Vinylite records free from defects. RUSH YOUR ORDER FOR your favorite group **NOW!** ORDER ALL THREE GROUPS and SAVE even MORE MONEY, only $2.98 per group.

SUPPLY LIMITED. That's why we urge you to fill in and mail coupon now! Play these 18 selections ordered, use the New GIFT surface saving needle, for 10 days at home. If you are not delighted, if you don't feel these are the Best Sounding records for the price, Return within 10 days for FULL REFUND. Don't Delay, SEND $2.98 in check or money order, or put three one dollar bills in the mail with this coupon and SAVE POSTAGE—DON'T DELAY! MAIL COUPON TODAY!

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If you RUSH YOUR ORDER NOW you get at NO EXTRA COST whatsoever a *SURFACE SAVING NEEDLE!* ORDER 18 Hit Tunes or 18 Hill Billy Hits or 18 Most Loved Hymns or ORDER ALL THREE SETS FOR only $7.95. But SUPPLY is LIMITED; so order at once. SEND COUPON TODAY. Order now on Money-Back Guarantee.

MAIL COUPON NOW—10-DAY TRIAL OFFER

HIT TUNES COMPANY, DEPT. 161
318 Market Street, Newark, New Jersey

Gentlemen: Please RUSH the 18 Top Selections along with the GIFT Surface SAVING NEEDLE on your NO-RISK 10-Day Money-Back Guarantee. I enclose $2.98 for each group of 18 selections with the understanding that if I am not completely satisfied you will return my money.

- ☐ 18 Hit PARADE Tunes $2.98
- ☐ 18 Hymns $2.98
- ☐ 18 Hill Billy Hits $2.98
- ☐ All Three Groups, 54 Songs $7.95

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone____ State_____

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Yes, anyone from 5 to 80 can draw or sketch or paint anything now... the very first time you use the "Magic Art Reproducer" like a professional artist — no matter how "hopeless" you think you are! Anything you want to draw is automatically seen on any sheet of paper. Then easily and quickly follow the lines of the "picture image" with your pencil... and you have an accurate original drawing that anyone would think an artist had done. Also makes drawing larger or smaller as you wish. Anyone can use it on any desk, table, board, etc. — indoors or outdoors! No other lessons or practice or talent needed!

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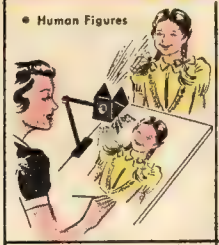

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- Outdoor Scenes, landscapes, buildings

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- Copy designs, blueprints, decorations, etc. for woodwork, machine, for needlework, crocheting, knitting

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10¢
OKAY, BABY! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LITTLE JOKE... NOW YOU CAN GET YOURSELF SOMEONE ELSE TO LAUGH AT! AND WHEN YOU WANT ME AGAIN, DON'T BOTHER TO CALL!
DON'T MISS... "HIS LAST GOODBYE!"
"MY FIRST LOVE!"

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*"LOST 18 POUNDS ON THE FIRST BOX" G. B. Vidor, Texas

"IT REALLY DID THE JOB!" *I tried so many others and was almost ready to give up. Thanks again to KAL-X!* A. G. Portland, Oregon

"LOST 60 POUNDS *Since chewing KAL-X Gum"* V. S. St. Louis, Mo.

NOW!—TRY THE KAL-X GUARANTEED TESTED PLAN! EAT AND GROW THIN! DON'T SUFFER HUMILIATION AND RIDICULE BY BEING FAT! KAL-X IS DELICIOUS! ENJOY CHEWING KAL-X BETWEEN MEALS INSTEAD OF FATTENING FOODS AND LOSE WEIGHT!

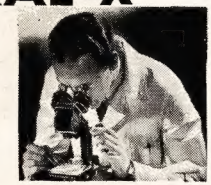
*Your own experience may, of course, vary.

LOSE FAT OR MONEY BACK!

KAL-X GUM CO., Dept. 10-G

93 MONTGOMERY ST., JERSEY CITY 2, N. J.

ENJOY CHEWING KAL-X GUM INSTEAD OF FATTENING FOODS! THEY'RE DELICIOUS!



THOUSANDS PRAISE KAL-X!

DOCTORS AGREE: That fat people tend to die younger and become easy victims of many diseases! Your doctor's recommendation and approval is invited. If your excess fat is not due to glandular or organic causes— Don't Wait! Mail Coupon Below Today! Don't miss dating and good times because you're FAT! Try KAL-X Tested Plan. Satisfaction or Money Back! KAL-X IS SAFE!

MAIL THIS COUPON

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!

KAL-X GUM CO., DEPT. 10-G
93 MONTGOMERY ST., JERSEY CITY 2, N. J.

Send Full Supply of KAL-X and Tested Plan for $2.00 plus postage. ☐
I want to save 40c C.O.D. postage so I enclose $2.00 with order. ☐.

Name.....
Please Print
Address.....
City.....Zone....State.....

Guaranteed Money Back in 10 Days if Not Satisfied!

PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!—THOUSANDS PRAISE KAL-X!—PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!

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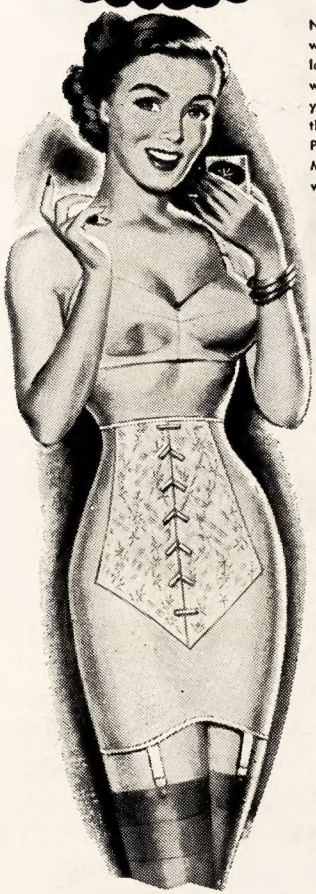
REDUCE YOUR APPEARANCE

LOSE INCHES from your figure INSTANTLY!

LOOK YEARS YOUNGER – SIZES SMALLER IN SECONDS!



Never before has a girdle been designed which does so much to give you the young-looking, beautiful figure you've always wanted! No matter how many other girdles you've tried, no other garment offers you the INSTANT SCIENTIFIC CONTROL, SUPPORT, HOLD-IN AND STAY-UP POWER of MAGIC MOLD. Here at last is a girdle that works wonders to help you achieve the fashionable slim teen-age figure that's so stylish today. The moment you put on your MAGIC-MOLD, inches seem to instantly disappear from your tummy, waist, thighs and hip lines. Think of the wonderful joy of putting on CLOTHES SIZES SMALLER and the compliments you'll receive on your SLIMMER, YOUTHFUL, MORE GRACEFUL SILHOUETTE.

ONLY $3.98 NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR LARGE SIZES UP TO 52 WAIST

COMPARE with GIRDLES COSTING $5.00 MORE!

FASHION EXPERTS HAIL EXCLUSIVE Magic DOUBLE-ACTION THAT GUARANTEES PERFECT FIT • COMFORT

No other girdle has the Magic-Mold "V" panel feature that allows you to custom fit your garment to the EXACT MEASUREMENT for your own figure! As you gently but firmly pull the laces you get individualized fit—exactly where you want it! The wonder-working "V" opening makes it SO EASY TO SLIP ON OR OFF. Yes, here's the HAPPY, HEALTHY way to a thinner, more youthful appearance!

The Secret is in the SCIENTIFICALLY DESIGNED "V" PANEL that LIFTS & FLATTENS YOUR BULGING TUMMY

Outstanding Features Beyond Comparison!

Strong, porous POWER ELASTIC fabric trims bulges and spare tire, gives you slender young lines that flatter your figure. Light stays in back and diaphragm assures non-roll back soothing support. Stays and garters plush-lined for comfort and durability.

TRY IT YOURSELF!

Place hands across tummy as shown. Press inwards and upwards gently. MAGIC-MOLD gives you the same soothing, natural, comfortable support.

CONSTRUCTED TO YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL SIZE IN OUR FACTORY

With individualized perfect fit, made just for your own figure, you can at last bend, sit, walk or dance in undreamed-of comfort, freedom and grace. MAGIC-MOLD's exceptional design helps eliminate binding; won't ride up, roll over, wrinkle or twist MAGIC-MOLD gives as you breathe, permitting you to enjoy DAY-LONG SOOTHING COMFORT, CONTROL AND SUPPORT . . . Constructed by skilled craftsmen from closely knit latex POWER ELASTIC with brocaded panel and secret Vinyl lining. Will not stretch out of shape. Washes easily and safely.

MAGIC-MOLD'S FAMOUS GUARANTEE FREE 10 DAY OFFER!

Mail coupon today. If not delighted, return girdle within 10 days and your full purchase price will be refunded.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE — TRY IT AT OUR EXPENSE!

Wear Magic-Mold for 10 days. It's sent to you on approval with a money back guarantee. We make this fabulous offer because we know you haven't worn the best until you've tried on new MAGIC-MOLD.

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Dept. 2211-G
465 Livonia Avenue
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

Thousands sold daily BY MAIL throughout the U.S.

SEND NO MONEY • Mail FREE TRIAL Coupon NOW

MAGIC-MOLD FASHIONS, Dept. 2211-G 465 Livonia Ave., B'klyn 7, N. Y.

Send me for 10 days' FREE TRIAL a Magic-Mold Girdle. I will pay postman $3.98 (plus postage). If I am not entirely satisfied I will return MAGIC-MOLD within 10 days for refund of purchase price.

Name_____

Address_____

City & Zone_____ State_____

My waist is_____ inches. My hips are_____ inches. I am ☐ Short ☐ Average ☐ Tall.

☐ SAVE MONEY. Enclose $3.98 now and we pay postage. Same money-back guarantee.

Enclose payment on Canadian or Foreign orders.

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SIGN YOUR NAME WITH REAL 23 KARAT GOLD!

—AND MAKE A "HATFUL" OF MONEY!

SELL AMAZING "GOLDEN SIGNATURE" KITS TO FRIENDS IN SPARE TIME—

MAKE UP TO $50 OR MORE—FAST!

Imagine how amazed your friends and neighbors will be when you take out your "Golden Signature" Autograph Set and show them how to sign letters, invitations, autograph albums, greeting cards, etc. in REAL GLEAMING 23-KARAT GOLD! And when you show them how to *personalize* books, photograph albums, stationery, phonograph records and hundreds of other objects—why, they'll practically *beg* you to sell them one or more kits! No wonder it's so easy for housewives, students, office workers—folks with absolutely no previous selling experience—to make up to $50 and more showing famous, exclusive CHILTON "Golden Signature" Autograph Sets and Christmas Greeting Cards!

FREE—GREETING CARD SAMPLES!

In addition to your "Golden Signature" Autograph Set we will send you FREE 28 samples of nationally famous CHILTON Greeting Cards. Take our word for it—you've never seen cards as heart-warming and beautiful as these CHILTON masterpieces. Nearly everyone in your neighborhood will be sending out greetings this Christmas—and they're getting ready to order *right now!* They'll buy from YOU—hundreds of dollars worth—when you show them these beautiful CHILTON Greetings that they can have imprinted with their own names or which they can sign with the exclusive 23-Karat "Golden Signature" Autograph Set—at no greater cost than they would pay for ordinary cards. Thousands of CHILTON representatives make money this easy way every year—and so can you if you act fast!

TRY IT 10 DAYS AT OUR RISK

Prove without risk that you can quickly and easily earn $10, $20, $50 and more just by showing CHILTON Greetings and the sensational "Golden Signature" Autograph Set. No experience needed. Simply fill in and mail the coupon, enclosing $1.00 for the Autograph Set. READ the fascinating money-making information we will send you. SHOW your friends how to sign their names in 23-karat gold. INVITE them to make their selections from the beautiful CHILTON Greeting Cards in the FOUR BIG SAMPLE CARD PORTFOLIOS you will receive absolutely free. Unless you are fully convinced that this is the easiest, quickest, pleasantest way to earn spare-time money, return the "Golden Signature" Autograph Set at our expense and we will immediately refund your dollar. Cash in on this golden money-making opportunity—mail the coupon at once!

Don't Miss This Golden Money-Making Opportunity

MAIL COUPON NOW!

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151 Essex St., Dept. MCGA-11, Boston 11, Mass.
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I enclose $1.00 for your exclusive CHILTON "Golden Signature" Autograph Set. Also send me ABSOLUTELY FREE, four big sample CHILTON Greeting Card Portfolios and complete money-making details. Unless I am convinced that I can earn spare-time profits with your plan I may return the "Golden Signature" Autograph Set and you will refund my dollar.

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Chilton

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